

[Col. J. W. o'Brien]

[S-241-HAL?] DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Wilbur Cummings ADDRESS Grand Island, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 11, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Col. J. W. O'Brien, Wood River, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 11, 1938 9 to 11 A.M.
3. Place of interview At farm home 1 mile west 1/4 mile north Wood River
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant No one, have known the informant for several years
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you No one.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Typical, average farm home, the house just recently painted and trimmed in the conventional Irish green, but the out buildings have begun to show the ravages of weather and the lack of paint.

The interview took place in the kitchen of the home which was furnished with an old fashioned kitchen table covered with an oil cloth, a kitchen range, and the conventional wood box, clean but conveying to the visitor the impression the informant had endured many hardships of the early day and was going to, oh just coast on out, no bitter feelings but a keen enjoyment in the [reminiscence?] of the past. C15 - 2/27/41 - Nebraska

Library of Congress

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Wilbur Cummings ADDRESS Grand Island, Ne

DATE Nov. 11, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Col. J. W. O'Brien, Wood River, Nebraska

1. Ancestry Irish
2. Place and date of birth Wood River, Hall Co., Oct. 12, 1869
3. Family Of direct Irish decent, parents original first colony to first settle near Wood River
4. Place lived in, with dates Continously in Hall Co, Near Wood River on old homestead.
5. Education, with dates About the fifth grade
6. Occupation and accomplishments, with dates Farmer, and auctioneer
7. Special skills and interests Auctioneer
8. Community and religious activities Catholic Church, politics, and general interest in all community affairs.
9. Description of informant Slender medium height very alert, with considerable facial expression, quite sociable displaying the typical Irish hospitality, adapt at grasping the nature of the desired information requested.
10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C Text of Interview (unedited)

Library of Congress

NAME OF WORKER Wilbur Cummings ADDRESS Grand Island Nebr.

DATE Nov. 11, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Col. J. W. O'Brien, Wood River, Nebraska Irish Songs and Omens

WEARING OF THE GREEN Oh! Paddy dear, and did you hear the news that's going [/ around?], the Shamrock is forbid by law, to grow on Irish ground; St. Patrick's day no more we'll keep, his color can't be seen. For there's a bloody law agin the wearing of the green. I met with [Napper Tandy?], and he tuk me by the hand, and he said "How's poor ould Ireland, and how does she stand? [*?]She's the most distressful country, that ever you have seen[;?] They're hanging men and women ther for wearin' of the green. Then since the color we must wear, is England's cruel red. Sure Ireland's sons will ne'er forget, the blood that they had shed[:?] You may take the Shamrock from your hat, and [cast]? it on the [rod?]. But 'twill take root and flourish still the under foot 'tis trod. When the law can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grown, and when the leaves in summertime, their verdure dare not show. *Then I will change the color, I wear in my [caubeen.?] But till that day, please God I'll stick to [wearin'g?] wearin' of the Green. But if at last our color should be torn from Ireland's heart. Her Sons with shame and sorrow from the dear ould soil will part; I've heard whisper of a country, that lies far [beyond?] the sea. Where, rich and poor stand equal in the light of Freedom's day. Oh! Erin, must we leave you? driven by the tyrant's hand. Must we ask a mother's [welcome?] from a strange, but happier land. *Where the cruel Cross of England's thralldom never shall be seen; And where, thank God, we'll live and die still wearin' the green.

*Repeat as Chorus